

October 2014 Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

It was a mild and mainly quiet October, with two periods of unsettled weather. High pressure was in control for most of the month, keeping any sustained cold air away from the region. We were visited by the remnants of a hurricane that had made landfall over the Baja California region. Otherwise, sunshine and mild weather was the norm.

Unlike the majority of the month, the first few days of October were cool and unsettled. Light precipitation fell each day, with a little snow mixing in at times. Conditions were gloomy with fog and low clouds common as well. High temperatures were held in the upper 50s to low 60s from the 1st through the 3rd. Dry and mild weather then took over for the remainder of the first week of the month, with highs reaching into the upper 60s and low 70s on the 4th and 5th.

The week of Oct. 6 started off dry and mild, but ended up wet and cold. High temperatures were above normal on the 6th, reaching all the way into the mid-70s under clear skies. Overnight lows were seasonable cool with 30s to low 40s. The sunny conditions quickly gave way to the remnant moisture associated with Hurricane Simon that had moved into the Baja California region a few days earlier. This remnant tropical moisture combined with a weak system moving in from the Pacific Northwest and a cool front moving in from the north to produce an active and wet weather pattern on the 9th and 10th. Heavy rains fell, with the hardest hit regions along and west of I-25, where 2-3 inches of rain accumulated. Just about everyone received at least an inch of rainfall.

Temperatures were also cool, with highs only in the 40s to low 50s. Not quite cold enough for snow for us, but plenty of snow fell in the mountains above 10,000 feet.

Saturday the 11th saw a nice break between systems, with sunshine and high back to around normal in the low 60s.

But this didn't last long as another quick-moving cold front raced through around noon on the 12th. This brought gusty winds and quite a variety of weather conditions. Rain, ice pellets, and snow showers all fell at one time or another that afternoon and evening. Temperatures were also held to below-average levels during that afternoon, falling from the upper 40s in the morning to the mid-30s by evening.

After an active weather period from the 9th through the 12th, the week of the 13th was quiet and dry. In fact, no precipitation fell from the 13th through the 19th, with scattered clouds at times the only real weather. Temperatures started off cooler than normal with highs only in the upper 40s and low 50s on the 13th, but quickly warmed to normal and above from the 14th through the 16th. Temperatures peaked at near record levels on the 15th, reaching the mid-70s. This pattern is definitely typical of an "Indian Summer" pattern.

Quiet and mild weather was the rule for most of the rest of the month as well, only broken by a brief rain showers during the afternoon of the 22nd and a more organized system on the 27th. High temperatures reached into the 60s and low 70s every day from the 18th through the 26th, well above normal for this time of the year and near daily record high territory on a couple of the warmer afternoons.

The streak of mild and dry weather was briefly interrupted by a cold front that moved through early on the 27th. As high pressure built in that day, upslope conditions continued that afternoon and a jet stream moved overhead. This added some extra lift to the atmosphere,

which allowed an organized band of snow showers to develop over the area from mid- to late afternoon. A quick half to one inch of snow accumulated over the region. Sunny and dry conditions quickly returned to end the month, but this time temperatures hovered around normal levels, with 40s and 50s to end the month.

A look ahead

November is generally dry and cool around the region. We usually get several light snowfalls interspersed with sunny skies. Gusty winds commonly develop on a couple of days as the jet stream becomes more active and more directly affects Colorado. Our first sub-zero morning low temperatures occur during the month as well. High temperatures average in the upper 40s early in the month to low 40s by the end with overnight lows often dipping into the teens and single digits.

October 2014 Weather Statistics

Average High	62.4° (+3.0°)
100-year return frequency value max	67.7° min 50.7°
Average Low	33.5° (+4.2°)
100-year return frequency value max	36.8° min 26.4°
Monthly Precipitation	2.15" (+0.32")
100-year return frequency value max	4.63" min 0.18"
Monthly Snowfall	1.1" (-12.4")
Highest Temperature	75° on the 6th
Lowest Temperature	20° on the 28th
Season to Date Snow	1.3" (-12.912") (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	10.37" (+1.06") (the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	526 (-102)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at billkappel@ocn.me.

Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter written is an OCN volunteer

Legal marijuana deters illegal market

I write this letter as a former prosecutor and a member of LEAP—Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) (www.leap.cc).

LEAP is made up of members of the law enforcement and criminal justice communities who are speaking out about the failures of existing drug policies to address the problems of juvenile drug use and crime caused by the existence of an illegal black market in drugs.

Center for Disease Control statistics demonstrate that marijuana legalization deters the illegal market: Youth marijuana usage in Colorado went down 2.8 percent from 2009 to 2011 and fell below the national average. Concerning the availability of drugs on school grounds, Colorado decreased 5 percent from 2009 to 2011, while on a national basis, drugs on school grounds went up almost 3 percent in 2011. Colorado was 8.4 percent lower than the national average (25.6 percent to 17.2 percent). This occurred in the presence of more than 500 medical marijuana stores in the same period.

Denver's crime statistics during the first six months

of retail marijuana align with a report recently published in PLOS ONE showing that legalizing marijuana also causes no increase in crime and may be accompanied by a decrease in violent crime, including homicide. In spite of talk about "social cost," there exists little to no resulting cost—no crime, no traffic problems, a diminished black market, significant new revenue for town, increased sales in local businesses, no increase in youth drug usage—when allowing retail marijuana sales, as well demonstrated by the mayor of Manitou Springs in his address to the Palmer Lake Town Council.

Please visit www.coloradocannabiscampaign.com and download a study on the issues.

Please vote yes on Palmer Lake Municipality Issue 300 and say no to the illegal drug trade through legalized sales that will provide a significant and well-documented deterrent to the same.

Karen Stuth

Vote yes for retail marijuana to move forward

Voting yes for the retail sales of cannabis in Palmer Lake is an important move toward equality and away from double standards, hypocrisy, and repression.

The Town of Palmer Lake has been surviving on the revenues from the sales of alcohol, a known intoxicant. Predominantly, these establishments serve non-residents.

This means that we reject a retail cannabis store and actively promote numerous businesses which engage in getting their patrons high, and sending them out to drive buzzed, or out-right drunk.

I hear much banter about bad perceptions and controlling the "image" of our town. I hear this couched in terms like "protecting the youth," "preserving our small town heritage," etc.

Well, history is made one day at a time. Heritage is what we hand forward to the youth. If we vote yes on retail cannabis sales, then we will begin a new era of equality. We will erase 100 years of double standards directed at cannabis consumers. Our heritage will then include more fairness, more honesty, and more objectivity. Our teenagers will be able to take a sober look at the effects and attractions of both alcohol and cannabis. Cannabis will be demystified. They will see that cannabis use will remain a natural part of the lives of some small portion of the population forever. They will see that cannabis is good for some people, bad for others, and never a good mix with heavy drinking. They will notice that many can-

nabis consumers are successful people with families and friends that go to church, that give to charities.

I am writing on behalf of our town's children and youth. Let them see the truth, which is that cannabis consumption is as old as the hills. They will also see, as they become adults, that double standards tear apart communities.

Jim Adams

Vote yes for parks

Please vote yes on 1A in November. 1A is not a tax increase. 1A is the "TABOR surplus" for 2013. El Paso County voters can vote yes on 1A and give county parks and trails \$2 million, or they can choose an \$8.41 property tax refund. Let's take care of what we have and support county trails, parks, open space, nature centers, and the county fairgrounds. Help fix trails ravaged by fire and flooding. Vote yes on 1a. For more information: www.voteyesforparks.com.

Susan Davies

Legal marijuana sales revenue needed

Colorado General Election ballot Issue 300 provides the opportunity for Palmer Lake to create a local line of defense against illegal marijuana sales, and to benefit from increased revenue—averaging as much as more than \$148,800 annually! (Colorado Department of Revenue August 2014 actual sales tax distribution to the 40 approving local governments: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/0814%20Local%20Government%20Distribution%20Report.pdf>)

*Issue 301 disallows new marijuana revenue, curtails voting rights, ignores the Colorado Constitution, and defaults to one federal law passed in 1970: The Controlled Substances Act, which kicked off Nixon's failed "war on drugs," costing U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars and imprisoning millions of US citizens.

Since the majority of Palmer Lake voters (and Colorado voters statewide) chose to amend the Colorado Constitution in 2012, marijuana possession cases filed in Colorado declined by more than 77 percent! (Imprisonment rates for possession continue to rise in federal prisons and prisons in states where marijuana is still criminalized.)

Once approved, new marijuana retail tax revenue should be earmarked in Palmer Lake's ordinance to ensure safety first: A. Law/code enforcement; B. Infrastructure; C. Fire protection and EMS; D. Wildfire miti-

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